

Page 4, between lines 10 and 12, insert a new heading as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 10, between lines 4 and 6, insert new headings and new paragraphs as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Various exemplary embodiments of this invention will be described in detail, with reference to the following figure, wherein:

Fig. 1 represents, in the form of a diagram partially in section, a plant which makes possible the implementation of the process according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-14 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add new claims 15-34 as follows:

--15. A solvent-free gas-generating pyrotechnic composition, comprising:

a binder, a nitrogenous organic compound, an oxidizing filler, and optionally at least one additive;

wherein said oxidizing filler comprises an ammonium perchlorate and a chlorine scavenger;

wherein said binder comprises at least one polymer, having a molecular mass greater than 200,000, selected from the group consisting of a polyester polymer and an acrylic ester, and

wherein said binder comprises at least one liquid constituent selected from the group consisting of a polyester resin and a plasticizer.--

--16. The composition according to claim 15, wherein said binder comprises an acrylic polymer and a plasticizer.--

--17. The composition according to claim 16, wherein said acrylic polymer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic rubbers and polyacrylates.--

--18. The composition according to claim 16, wherein said plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of dioctyl adipate and dioctyl azelate.--

--19. The composition according to claim 15, wherein said binder comprises a polyester polymer and a polyester resin.--

--20. The composition according to claim 15, wherein said binder comprises a cross-linking agent.--

--21. The composition according to claim 20, wherein said cross-linking agent is an isocyanate-type cross-linking agent.--

--22. The composition according to claim 15, wherein the content by weight of the nitrogenous compound, the oxidizing filler, and the (at least one additive is at least 85% of the total weight of the composition.)
(or)

--23. The composition according to claim 15, wherein said chlorine scavenger is selected from the group consisting of sodium nitrate, calcium carbonate, lithium carbonate, potassium nitrate, strontium nitrate, barium nitrate, potassium chlorate, potassium perchlorate and copper oxide.--

--24. The composition according to claim 23, wherein said chlorine scavenger is sodium nitrate.--

--25. The composition according to claim 15, wherein said nitrogenous organic compound is selected from the group consisting of nitroguanidine, guanidine nitrate, aminoguanidine nitrate, oxamide, dicyandiamide, guanylurea dinitramide and metal cyanamides.--

--26. The composition according to claim 15, comprising a ballistic catalyst.--

--27. The composition according to claim 26, wherein said ballistic catalyst is selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, copper oxide, basic copper nitrate, copper chromite and iron oxide.--

--28. The composition according to claim 15, comprising a wetting agent.--

--29. The composition according to claim 28, wherein said wetting agent is selected from the group consisting of organosilanes, titanates and aziridines.--

--30. A method for continuously manufacturing the solvent-free composition of claim 15 in a twin-screw mixer-extruder comprising a mixing and kneading compartment, a compression compartment and an extrusion head, said method comprising:

introducing solid and liquid constituents into said mixing and kneading compartment through two different feed openings in said twin-screw mixer-extruder,
forming a homogenous paste by conveying and kneading said solid and liquid components,

degassing said homogenous paste,
extruding said homogenous paste, with said extrusion head, into rods,
cutting said rods into charges with a cutting device, and
cross-linking said charges at a temperature between about 100°C and about 150°C.--

--31. The method according to claim 30, further comprising premixing said nitrogenous organic compound and said polymer to form a premixture, and introducing said premixture into said mixing and kneading compartment through a solids feed opening.--

--32. The method according to claim 30, wherein a pressure in said compression compartment is less than about 50×10^3 Pa.--

--33. The method according to claim 30, wherein a temperature in said mixing and kneading compartment is between about 15°C and about 75°C.--